

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend page 2, lines 23-27:

The main disadvantage of vaccines derived from virulent pathogens is, that they must be carefully and sufficiently attenuated in order to be safe.

This requirement can relatively easy be fulfilled for highly virulent microorganisms, because they can in most cases be highly attenuated while ~~[[remaining]]~~ retaining their vaccinating (immunity-inducing) capacities.

Please amend page ¹/₃, lines 23-37:

Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale is a relatively new bacterium causing a disease known for about a decade now, and found frequently in ~~[[i.a.]]~~ inter alia, chickens and turkeys. Clinical signs in chickens are e.g. airsacculitis or coughing, pneumonic lungs or pleuritis. In turkey flocks in several parts of the world, a comparable infection of the respiratory tract is found. Mortality in flocks suffering from the disease can be as high as 5%. The first clinical signs are comparable to infection in chicken: sneezing and nasal discharge. In some animals clinical signs of acute infection are seen. Examination of sacrificed animals shows edema of the lungs, fibrinopurulent pneumonia and often serofibrinous pericarditis and serofibrinous infection of the airsacs. *Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale* is extensively described in European Patent EP0.625.190. Identification, serotyping and experimental infection in turkeys and chickens have been described e.g. by van Empel, P.C.M. et al., in Journ. of Clin. Microbiol. 35: 418-421 (1997), by van Empel, P.C.M. et al., in Avian Diseases 40: 858-864 (1996) and by van Empel, P.C.M. et al., in Avian Pathology 28:217-227 (1999). A review on *Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale* has been published in Avian Pathology 28: 217-227 (1999) by van Empel, P.C.M. and Hafez, H.M.

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Please amend page 12, lines 29-31:

Oligonucleotides

All oligonucleotides were obtained from Life Technologies TM Gibco BRL (Paisley, UK) and are indicated in Table 1. Their location in the sequence is shown in ~~[[figure]]~~ Figures 2A and B.